

ANNUAL REPORT

16

OF THE

MANAGERS

OF THE

APPRENTICES' LIBRARY COMPANY

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

Read at a Meeting of the Company, held at their room, on the 13th of
March, 1845, and published by their order.

PHILADELPHIA:

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TO THE
APPRENTICES' LIBRARY COMPANY,
OF PHILADELPHIA.

The Managers find it a pleasing duty to present the report of their proceedings for the past year, because they can do so in a cheerful spirit.

The Apprentices' Library continues to exercise a salutary influence on the minds of our youth, and it is delightful to see them eagerly claiming its privileges. Never did the prospects of our Institution appear more bright than at this moment. The good it has effected is being felt and appreciated, and grateful recollections are entertained by many of those who have here acquired a taste for study, and who have thus been preserved from temptations to which the less favoured are exposed.

It has been the practice of some of the members of this and previous Boards, to notice boys in the streets and elsewhere, to engage them in conversation, inform them of the existence of the Apprentices' Library, invite them to participate in its benefits, and to furnish them with such aid and counsel, as they may seem to require. The effect of such a course is attended with the happiest results; a lad finding that he is cared for is inspired with sentiments of gratitude; his self-esteem is awakened—he finds that he is of more consequence in the world than he had expected, and that he has an important office to perform on the great theatre of life.

In these efforts our feelings resemble those of the sculptor who, though commencing operations on the unshapen-ed marble, is confident that if his chisel is directed with skill, he will, in time, be able to produce the desired statue. Ours, however, is a more exalted task^{and}—and the direction now given to the mind, may settle a more important question than that of worldly respectability or worldly honors!

On parents, masters, and guardians rests a still greater responsibility. Home should be rendered agreeable, and every facility afforded to the son, ward, or apprentice, to pursue his studies with pleasure and profit.

The cheapness of maps will enable almost every one who has apprentices, to be well supplied with these important auxiliaries to domestic education. Geographical knowledge is rapidly acquired when connected with agreeable reading, and the pleasant associations will cause it to be remembered, while the school-boy task is recalled with bitterness.

The advantage of reading with maps before us, is too little appreciated; but to apprentice boys whose education is defective, an atlas for frequent reference is peculiarly important. The mind thus receives correct impressions of localities, and is constantly stimulated to geographical enquiry.

The experiment of a Girls' Library has proved eminently successful. Notwithstanding its limited extent, the number of applicants, during the last quarter, has been steadily increasing, and will, no doubt, continue to increase with our means for usefulness—there being many hundreds of females employed in various branches of Manufacture within a few squares of the Library.

For this industrious and meritorious class of the community, our sympathies are deep and abiding, cast, as

many of them are at an early age, upon their own resources, by severe domestic bereavement! It is our purpose, in establishing a Library for their special benefit, to afford them an opportunity for mental culture, and thus to compensate, in some degree, for the privations they endure.

This desirable result can only be fully accomplished through the munificence of our fellow citizens, and we confidently believe that we shall be generously sustained.

To the liberal proprietors of the building we now occupy, we again tender our sincere thanks—the rent being regularly returned to us as a donation for the purchase of books.

Our late countryman, Nathan Dunn, by his Will, dated 1840, made a liberal bequest to the Apprentices' Library. Subsequent unexpected losses diminished his estate, and as relatives and friends are first provided for, it is probable that the benevolent intentions of the Testator towards this Institution, may not be realized.

From the estate of Paul Beck, Jr., long a distinguished merchant of this city, we expect to receive One Hundred Dollars.

These bequests are but the foreshadowing of that spirit of philanthropy, which we trust, will, in time, enable us, not only to increase both branches of our Library, but to provide a Reading Room for our youth, where the luxury of quiet may be enjoyed in company with those of kindred pursuits and feelings.

JAMES J BARCLAY,

Chairman, P. T.

WILLIAM R. MAXFIELD,

Sec'y, A. L. Co. Philad'a.

Report from the Librarian of the Boys Library.

10,454 Books loaned during the year.
 940 New applicants.
 1,000 Now using the Library.
 186 Books purchased.

Report from the Girls Librarian.

Books loaned during the year, . . . 4,683
 Average number of Girls using the Library, 142
 Now using the Library, 190
 New applicants during the year, . . . 156
 Books purchased, 274
 Discarded books, 25

The Library is situated at the South West corner of Fifth and Arch streets. It is open for the delivery of books to girls on Fifth day (Thursday,) afternoon: and for boys four evenings in the week. The terms of subscription are two dollars per annum, or twenty-five dollars for life membership.

Form of a Legacy.

I give, devise and bequeath to the "Apprentices Library Company of Philadelphia,"———

Abstract of the Account of Samuel Mason, Treasurer.—Payments from 3d mo. 8th 1844, to 3d mo. 10th, 1845. Receipts.

For Salaries and Services,.....	\$481 02	Cash balance in the Treasury,	
" Fuel and Gas Light,.....	80 25	3d mo. 8th, 1844,.....	\$293 36
" The Purchase of Books,..	175 00	Annual subscriptions of mem-	
" Binding do.	35 90	bers, less commission for	
" Printing Cards, Labels, Re-		Collecting,.....	673 86
ports, &c.....	63 46	Donation to Girls Library from	
" Rent of Library,.....	50 00	Elizabeth Stott,.....	25 00
" Rent of Lecture Room, Fank-		Donation from Free Quakers So-	
lin Institute,.....	49 50	ciety, for the purchase of	
" The purchase of \$300 Schuyl-		Books,	50 00
kill Navigation 50 loan,	238 50	Interest and Ground Rent,...	123 75
" Re-Insurance of Books and		Fines received and catalogues	
Furniture one year,.	12 00	sold at Boys Library,...	74 81
" Incidentals....	11 63	do. do. Girls do.	13 21
" Balance due Company, 3d		Fines collected from Managers,	5 88
mo.10th 1845,.....	62 61		
Amount,	\$1,259 87		\$1,259 87

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OF

THE APPRENTICES' LIBRARY COMPANY,

ELECTED MARCH 13, 1845.

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